



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

April 14, 2005

News Release

81 FUGITIVES NABBED BY MARSHALS AND ICE IN PUERTO RICO *Arrests Part of Nationwide Joint Operation Led by Marshals*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico –Eighty-one fugitives were arrested here this past week as a result of “Operation Falcon,” a nationwide enforcement initiative targeting fugitives and dangerous criminals spearheaded by the U.S. Marshals Service and supported by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This week’s arrests under Operation Falcon are the latest result stemming from the long-running working relationship between ICE and the Marshals. ICE is an active member of the Marshals’ Regional Fugitive Task Force team in Puerto Rico, one of a nationwide network of District and Regional Task Forces that provide the investigative and enforcement infrastructure for the Operation Falcon initiative.

Included in this week’s arrests are:

- Freddy Rivera-Marrero – A 35-year-old wanted for escaping from a correctional institution in 1995. Officers seized three vehicles, a jet boat, a firearm, cocaine, drug paraphernalia and thousands of dollars. Rivera-Marrero was arrested in Caguas, Puerto Rico.
- Jose Rivera Sanchez- A 37-year-old wanted for attempted murder, assault and robbery. Sanchez was arrested in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.
- Osvaldo Lopez- A 48-year-old wanted for kidnapping a 14-year-old girl from Massachusetts. Lopez will be extradited to Massachusetts to face the pending criminal kidnapping charges that have been filed against him. He was arrested in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“Our community can sleep better tonight knowing that there are 81 dangerous criminals that have been taken off the streets of Puerto Rico thanks to this joint effort,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge in Puerto Rico. “We are pleased to have taken part of this important

law enforcement initiative, and look forward to our continued partnership with the U.S. Marshals Service.”

April 19, 2005, will mark the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. At the time, it was the deadliest criminal action committed on U.S. soil. On September 11, 2001, the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon surpassed the devastation of the bombing in Oklahoma City. In honor of the victims of these criminal assaults, Operation Falcon is being conducted in conjunction with National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.